

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes - - - December 14, 2020
Via Zoom

Commission Member Attendees: Judge Rob Robertson – Chairman; Mayor Walt Maddox – Vice Chairman; Mayor Bobby Herndon; Jim Page; Danielle Winningham; Rep. Rich Wingo; Rep. Chris England; James Brown (ex officio)

Other Attendees:

Alyce Spruell; Kelly Johns; Susan Snowden; Dennis Stripling; Paul Connolly; Zane Davis; Kim Palm; Scott Anders; David Kemp; Caty Waldrop; Marcie Lewis; Richard Rush; Wallace McAdory; Nicole Hampton; Glenda Webb; Randy Skagen; Chris Grace; Justice Smyth; Josh McCoy; Russell Ware; Eddie Pugh; Tera Tubbs; Steven Polunsky; Rep. Bill Poole; Sen. Gerald Allen; Robert Spence; Chris Crawford; Clay Randolph; April Hoffman

Judge Robertson called the virtual meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Judge Robertson presented the minutes of the November 16, 2020 TCRIC meeting.

Vote: Minutes of the November 16, 2020 TCRIC Commission meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Mayor Herndon, seconded by Mayor Maddox. The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of Bills

A summary of bills was presented for the Commission’s consideration.

Vote: A motion to pay bills as presented was made by Mayor Maddox, seconded by Rep. Wingo, and approved unanimously.

Financial Report

Kim Palm presented the accounting report. The ledger balance as of December 9, 2020 was \$10,447,189.19. The December 2020 deposit (from October 2020 sales tax collected) was \$816,300, representing a 3.05% decrease from December 2019. The projected and actual accrual basis revenues for Fiscal Year 2021 is \$816,300 and \$798,767, respectively.

Vote: The Financial Report was unanimously approved after a motion by Mayor Herndon, seconded by Jim Page. The motion passed unanimously.

Changes Regarding TCRIC Legal Counsel

Judge Robertson reported that he has been given notice that Nicole Hampton will be leaving Rosen Harwood. Hampton then reported that Alyce Spruell will return as the primary lead counsel for TCRIC, with Caty Waldrop assisting.

Update on funding options.

Josh McCoy and Nicole Hampton gave an updated presentation on potential long-term funding options for TCRIC. Nicole Hampton began the presentation with a recap of funding information previously given, specifically for the TCRIC contribution to the SR-69 South Intersection Improvement (Skyland) project. Hampton reminded the Commission of previous conversations and the decision to cash-flow short-term funding for SR-69S, as shown in the current FY2021

budget. These expenses could be reimbursed with long-term funding if TCRIC chooses to do so based upon an earlier resolution passed by the TCRIC. Josh McCoy then presented four possible funding options and discussed the steps that would be necessary to effectuate each: TCRIC issuing their own debt, GO funding through a member entity, setting up a cooperative district, and the ATIB.

There was discussion regarding limitations of HB 600, with respect to the four long-term funding options presented and short-term financing, and the details of the SR-69 South Intersection Improvement (Skyland) project (including timeline, current cost estimate, the funding agreement with ALDOT and responsibility of overage costs). TCRIC members asked Alyce Spruell to work with others, to draft a possible amendment to HB 600, for consideration at the January 2021 TCRIC meeting, that would resolve limitations on long-term funding.

Contracts Committee Report

Kelly Johns gave an update on behalf of the Contracts Committee. On December 1, 2020, the Contracts Committee met and discussed the renewal of contracts for Kim Palm (Carver Dewitt Palm) and Kelly Johns (TCRIC Administrator). The committee recommended accepting Palm's 2021 proposal, and extending Johns's contract one year under the same terms.

Vote: The recommendations were unanimously approved after a motion from Rep. Wingo and seconded by Danielle Winningham.

Project Updates

Kelly Johns provided an update on behalf of Doug Varnon (City of Northport).

- SR-69 South, Union Chapel Road: The project is complete with the exception of one signal (which was ordered but will not arrive until January 2021, due to COVID-19 related delays).

Tera Tubbs gave updates on City of Tuscaloosa projects.

- McWright's Ferry Rd: Plans are 85% complete and the City is working with ALDOT for permits needed.
- Martin Luther King/Jack Warner Parkway: The City issued the notice to proceed with Phase I in November 2020. The primary bridge design is at 75% and is being reviewed by KCS; the spur design is at 75% and will be submitted to KCS later this week. For precaution, related to COVID-19, a ground breaking ceremony was rescheduled for January 13, 2021 at 9am.

David Kemp (ALDOT) provided ALDOT project updates:

- SR-69 North / US-82 Intersection: ALDOT has selected a consultant and is working towards a fee schedule. As previously reported, this work will be to evaluate possible designs for the future, although there are no immediate construction plans.
- University Blvd: ROW acquisition is in process. ALDOT is evaluating design options with its bridge consultant, and plans to choose one soon.
- SR-69 South Intersection Improvements: The plans are complete. ROW acquisition continues.
- US-82 / I-59/I-20 (not a TCRIC project): The replacement arches on I-59/I-20 over US-82 are expected to arrive in January 2021.

Public Comment

Judge Robertson opened the meeting for public comment.

- Randy Skagen asked ALDOT about the scheduled work near University Blvd/US-82 and the timing (it is scheduled for the weekend of the University of Alabama's graduation). Kemp reported that the work was geotechnical investigation, for the University Blvd project. Significant impact to motorists is not expected, but Kemp will look into the details.
- Gerald Allen requested a copy of the TCRIC funding memo and presentation, shared in today's meeting.
- Eddie Pugh asked ALDOT about the ongoing work on I-20/I-59, and the status of lighting/luminaries. Mr. Brown reported Alabama Power Company (APCo) will be installing the lights. Due to recent storm-related work, APCo has not installed the lighting yet.

Next Meeting

The next TCRIC Commission meetings will be on Monday, January 25, 2021 and Monday, February 22, 2020, tentatively set to be held virtually.

Meeting was adjourned.